



Connecticut
Early Childhood
Alliance

Testimony in Favor of S.B. 10
AN ACT INCREASING ACCESS TO CHILDCARE FOR
CHILDREN WHO ARE HOMELESS.
Children's Committee February 16, 2016

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and distinguished members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Merrill Gay and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance a statewide membership organization committed to ensuring that all children in Connecticut are healthy, safe and ready for lifelong success.

The Early Childhood Alliance strongly supports Governor Malloy's proposal to increase access to childcare for children who are homeless. For far too long, Connecticut has maintained eligibility rules that made it difficult or impossible for families experiencing homelessness to access the Care4kids childcare subsidy.

This bill does two significant things:

- It defines homeless children as eligible for protective services through the Care4Kids program regardless of whether their parent(s) are employed. This means that children can be in a stable childcare setting during the day while their parents are trying to get a job and a new place to live.
- The second thing it does is allows childcare programs and family daycare providers to grant homeless families a 90 waiver on paperwork that frequently gets lost or misplaced when a family becomes homeless.

These two changes will go a long way to make sure that very vulnerable homeless children will be able to access quality early care programs.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.